Tactics Academy

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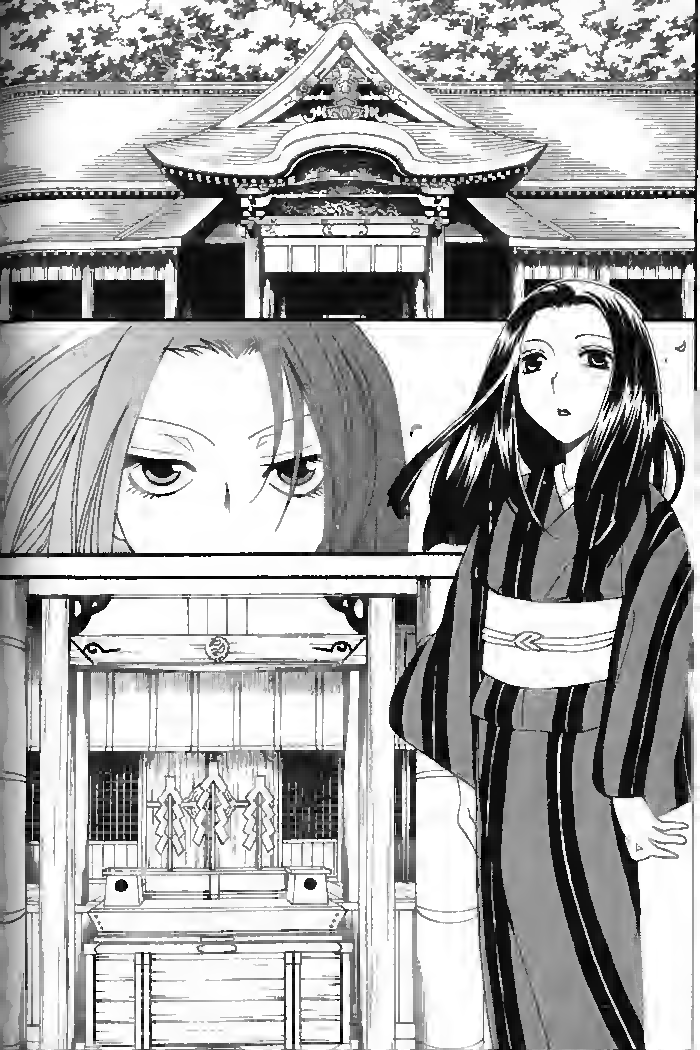
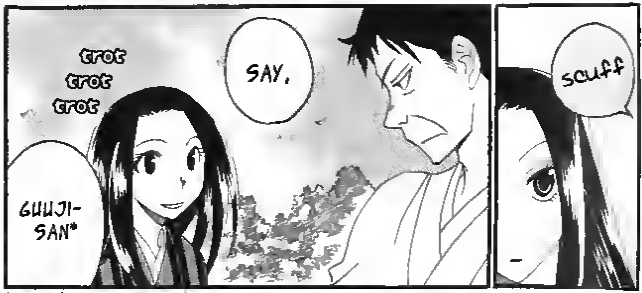
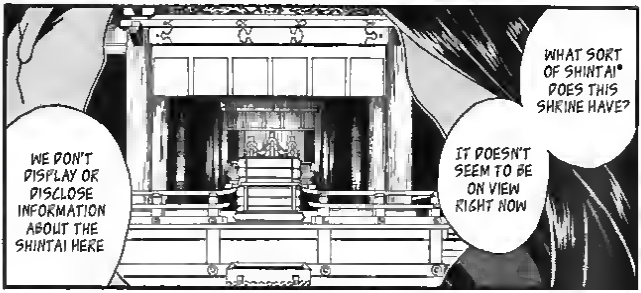
I decided to change the main text font
I may or may not go back and change
it in previous chapters

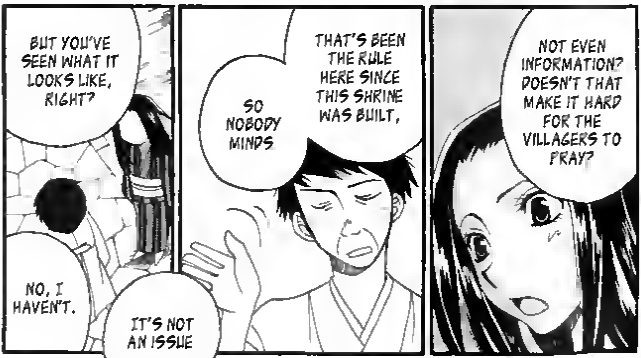
SATIRE OF A RED-EYED
POMEGRANATE FIEND
KISHIMOJIN PART IX





*TN: chief priest of a Shinto shrine


WHAT SORT OF SHINTAI* DOES THIS SHRINE HAVE?
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON VIEW RIGHT NOW
WE DON'T DISPLAY OR DISCLOSE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHINTAI HERE


BUT YOU'VE SEEN WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, RIGHT?
NO, I HAVEN'T.
SO NOBODY MINDS
THAT'S BEEN THE RULE HERE SINCE THIS SHRINE WAS BUILT,
IT'S NOT AN ISSUE
NOT EVEN INFORMATION? DOESN'T THAT MAKE IT HARD FOR THE VILLAGERS TO PRAY?

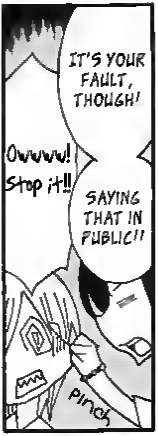
GASP
WELL, YOU SEE,
SOMEONE IS DISPATCHED FROM THE GRAND SHRINE AT ISE, AND...
HUH?
IF YOU CAN'T VIEW IT, THEN WHO CAN?
EH?
.....
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR AGREEING TO DANCE THE KAGURA AT THE FESTIVAL
I SAID TOO MUCH
OH DEAR,
WAI-
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL
SOMEONE COMES ALL THE WAY FROM ISE TO THIS COUNTRY SHRINE...?

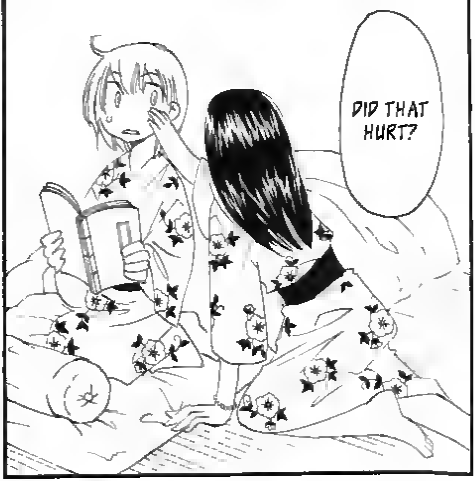
UGGHH
LIKE DOROTABOU-KUN SAID...
SIGH
THERE AREN'T ANY TENGU AROUND HERE AFTER ALL
WHERE COULD IT BE?
THE LEGENDARY DEMON-EATING TENGU...

UFUFU AND THEN...
SHO
VE

HOLD IT, KANTAROU !!
HO-
WHORE.
SMACK

IS KAN-TAROU-KUN ALL RIGHT?
HONESTLY
rush
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
IT'S HIS REBELLIOUS PHASE
sigh~
.....


IT'S YOUR FAULT, THOUGH!
Owwww! Stop it!!
SAYING THAT IN PUBLIC!!
pinch


DID THAT HURT?

.....

FUFU
ALTHOUGH, GETTING HIT BY A WOMAN MAKES A BETTER MAN.

YOU ONLY SAY THINGS THAT ARE CONVENIENT FOR YOU

Ahaha!
OHH! YOU'D BE THE FIRST FROFESSIONAL FEMALE STORYTELLER IN JAFAN!!
YOU MEAN, I SHOULD QUIT AS A TRAVELING MIKO AND BECOME A FROFESSIONAL STORYTELLER?
YOUR STORIES ARE SO AMUSING
HUG
OH, NO! OHTANI-SAN, DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!

ONTANI-SAN, YOU'RE ADORABLE ♡
HEH
P-PLEASE DON'T TEASE ME.
ZOOM
.....

SCUFF
SCUFF
I'M SO PISSED OFF
I COULD PUKE
Don't do that.
HM?

When I saw you go by,
My body stayed behind when I rushed to follow you.

WAH! DOROTABOU-KUN, YOU'RE HERE!?

Indeed.
Indeed.

RUSHED? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

REALLY !?
EH...

Some folk say they've spotted a tengu-looking guy.

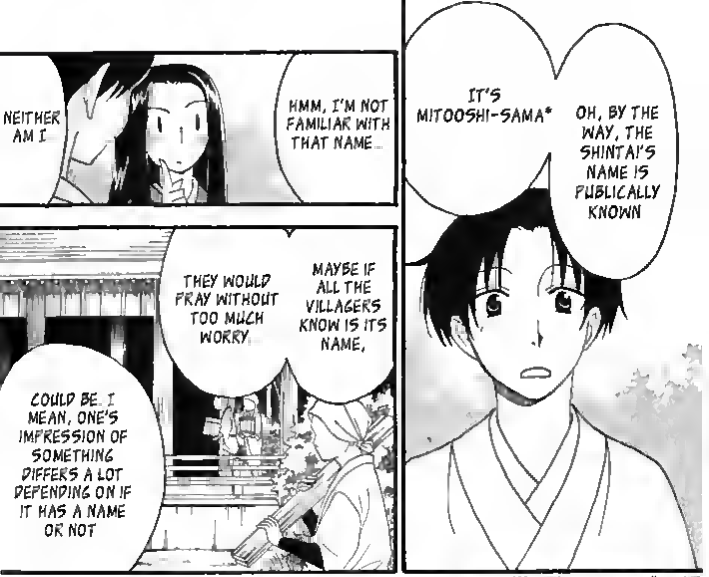
Actually, since last time,
I tried asking around the area, you see.
YEAH?

* an echo monster
**a mind-reading mountain
RUSH
A yamahiko* and a satori** living somewhere in the mountains said they saw some giant bird or something.
When I asked how big, they said as big as a human.
I thought, that's gotta be a tengu.
THANKS, DOROTA-BOU-KUN!!
Be careful...
eGOPE
.....
MAYBE, LIKE ALWAYS, IT WON'T BE A DEMON-EATING TENGU.
BUT IT'S NOT ENTIRELY OUT OF THE QUESTION!
I'VE BEEN DRAWN TO IT SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
I CAN'T GIVE UP EASILY.

!
.....
THERE IT IS!
rustle
rustle
HAVE TO STOP IT BY BINDING IT...
OH NO!
I HAVE TO BE FASTER!!

HAVE SHINTAI ON YOUR MIND?
!
BUT, NO MATTER WHAT, THE DOOR WON'T OPEN WITHOUT FERMISSION
SINCE I'VE NEVER SEEN IT AND DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS
I KNOW I FEEL THE SAME
YEAH, WELL
WITH IT HIDDEN LIKE THIS...

MEAN -ING?
tinn
MY BRACELET IS VIBRATING SLIGHTLY
PROBA BLY
MAYBE IT'S NOT JUST LOCKED, BUT IT MIGHT HAVE A SPELL SET ON IT.
THEY'RE MY SPECIAL PRAYER BEADS
IT'S LIKE A STOREHOUSE THAT STORES DIVINE ENERGY.
AMAZ -ING.
I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS LIKE THAT.
tinn
I FULL ENERGY FROM IT TO CALL THE GODS
BUT IT ALSO VIBRATES IN REACTION TO NON-HUMAN ENERGY
I KNEW YOU GUYS WERE LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU COULD DO KISHINHOU
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT
I NEVER BELIEVED YOU COULD ACTUALLY DO IT..


HMM, I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT NAME...
NEITHER AM I
OH, BY THE WAY, THE SHINTAI'S NAME IS PUBLICALLY KNOWN
IT'S MITOOSHI-SAMA*
MAYBE IF ALL THE VILLAGERS KNOW IS ITS NAME,
THEY WOULD PRAY WITHOUT TOO MUCH WORRY.
COULD BE. I MEAN, ONE'S IMPRESSION OF SOMETHING DIFFERS A LOT DEPENDING ON IF IT HAS A NAME OR NOT

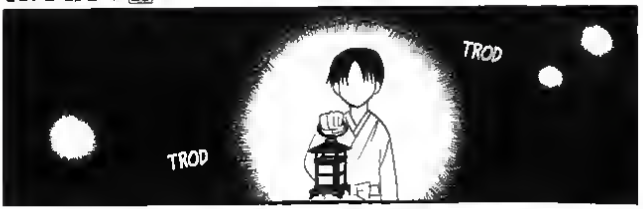
*Note: the name means "insight"

IT IS
IT MIGHT NOT BE ANYTHING SPECIAL, BUT IT'S STILL INTRIGUING.
MYSTERIOUS...
AND ALLURING
Ba-dump
SO ARE YOU
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. I FEEL THE SAME.

YOU WERE WANDERING AROUND TILL DUSK TODAY
HMM.
YOU SHOULD HELP WITH THE FESTIVAL AT LEAST A LITTLE.
HMM..
SO WHAT DID FIND TO DO WAY OUT HERE IN THIS REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE?
.....
KANTAROU
"SIGH"
AGAIN?
...LOOKED FOR A DEMON-EATING TENGU...

A MONSTER FROM A 900 YEAR OLD LEGEND? EVEN IF IT DID EXIST, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY REPORTED SIGHTINGS
SINCE THE LEGEND EMERGED IN THE HEIAN ERA
.....
ALL KINDS OF MAGIC-USERS HAVE SEARCHED FOR THAT STRONGEST OF MONSTERS TO SUBORN,
AND HAVEN'T SEEN EVEN A GLIMPSE OF IT
IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD EVER FIND IT
DON'T YOU SAY THAT TOO, MOTHER
.....
TOMORROW, HELP OUT WITH THE FESTIVAL

KANTA KUN...
YOU, UH... MIGHT BE GETTING A NEW FATHER.
TILL NOW YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME TO DO ANYTHING I'M NOT INVOLVED IN.
SO WHY NOW?
HUH?
THE DAY MIGHT HAVE COME WHEN I PASS ON MY BRACELET TO YOU.


TROD
TROD

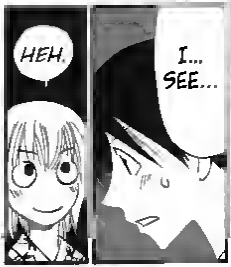
YOU STARTLED ME. WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THIS LATE?
GASP
KANTAROU-KUN!!
GASP
LOOM
YEEP!!

GLARE
YOU CAME LOOKING FOR ME?
WHAT FOR?
AT THE DORMITORY THEY SAID... YOU HAD WATCH DUTY TONIGHT...
GASP
GASP

It's you, isn't it!?
What did you do to mother!?
HEY! DON'T YELL!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
UNF...
CHOMP
YOW!
LOOM
EARLIER YOU WERE TALKING LIKE YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT HER...
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL!?
OH.. UH
BLUSH
UM...
.....
GRRR

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TOYED WITH, RIGHT?

MY MOTHER ALWAYS FINDS HERSELF A MAN AT ANY ESTABLISHED PLACE NO MATTER HOW BRIEF THE STAY
WHEN WE LEAVE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE TOSSED ASIDE
LIKE ALL THE OTHER MEN MY MOTHER TOYED WITH BEFORE


I... SEE...
HEH.

!?

I THINK I MIGHT BE IN LOVE.
BUT...
SO YOU SHOULD LEAVE HER BEFORE YOU GET BURNED.

MOTHER SAID SHE'S TAKING HER BRACELET OFF..
FOR HER TO DO THAT MEANS...
SHE'S QUITTING AS A TRAV-ELING MIKO.
To be together with you!!!
KAN-TAROU -KUN
IF YOUR MOTHER WANTS THAT, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
sigh

AT SOME POINT, SHE HAS TO SETTLE DOWN AND LOOK FOR A STABLE LIFE SOMEWHERE...
SHE CAN'T TRAVEL THE COUNTRY AFOOT FOREVER, CAN SHE?
YOUR MOTHER'S AGE IS STARTING TO WEIGH ON HER.
...THAT STABLE LIFE?
AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE HER...
THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS FEEL CROSS, HUH?
shove
rush
AH, I SEE... YOU'RE UPSET BECAUSE YOU THINK I'M TAKING YOUR MOTHER AWAY?
...!
HUH?
MOTHER... IS MINE.
BUT, EITHER WAY, YOUR FEELINGS
MAYBE SOME OF THAT'S JUST ADOLES-CENCE,

HER WINSOME PERSONALITY AND HER SELFISH ASPECTS...
HER BODY AND HER SLEEK BLACK HAIR...
THEY'RE ALL MINE.
I'M NOT...
GIVING HER TO YOU.

WHAT... ARE YOU SAYING...?
ARE YOU

EVEN REALLY
MOTHER AND CHILD?

DO YOU...
LOVE YOUR MOTHER AS A WOMAN?

I'M NOT LETTING YOU...
...TAKE MOTHER FROM ME!!